

Grantbam House
River Road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles S. of New Castle
Delaware

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

Historic American Buildings Survey
Weston B. Blake, District Officer
909 West Street, Wilmington, Delaware

HABS
DELGRANTHAM HOUSE
One and a half miles S. of New Castle, Delaware

NEWCASTLE

7.

Owner: James Dell AversanoDate of Erection: Early to Middle of 18th CenturyPresent Condition: In a general way, good and sound. Interior painting in the Italian style detracts from Colonial effect.Number of Stories: Two, low attic and cellar.Materials of Construction: Brick stuccoed. Shingle roof on front and rear. Also rear porch shingled.Other Existing Records: Offices of Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills of New Castle County; Bennett's Early Architecture of Delaware.

Additional Data: This is an attractive country mansion, with a main front building and at rear on N. E. side a two story service wing decidedly lower than the front, forming the usual L plan. A rather early date is indicated by the characteristics of the architecture: quite plain and heavy. The bracketed cornice is reminiscent of that of the Vanleuvenigh House in New Castle. The unsymmetrical, four unit front has a large room on west, small room on east and door under the third upper window. This is a well designed variant from the more usual five unit center doorway type. The string course on the front, ending about a foot from either side, pleasingly divides the stories, and the upper tier of windows (8 over 12 sash) are properly subordinated to the 12 over 12 lower tier. The solid three panel shutters on the windows of both tiers give a consistency of effect, lost in the usual blind and shutter system. The house lies low on the ground, only three marble steps to first floor level, and this and the long, narrow window openings of the basement give horizontal emphasis. There is some plain but well designed paneling in the interior, and the staircase has an angular heaviness, in style with the rest of the building. The gray stucco and brown woodwork of the exterior aid to give the house an individual character of its own.

Lausant R. Rogers

Approved

William A. DeLoe
District Officer

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